

2nd August 1933]

[The President]

As the number of candidates nominated for election is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled up, viz., six, I hereby declare them duly elected.

"In addition to the above, I nominate, under Standing Order No. 84, Mr. M. S. Sreshta and Mr. Pocker Sahib as Members of the Committee. The Deputy President will be the Chairman of the Committee."

IV.—A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS NURSES AND MIDWIVES ACT, 1926.

11-45
a.m.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I appoint Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar to be the Chairman of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Bill to amend the Madras Nurses and Midwives Act, 1926 (Bill No. 8 of 1933)."

NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

V.—RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A BROADCASTING SERVICE FOR THIS PRESIDENCY.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Discussion on the following resolution of Mr. A. B. Shetty will be resumed, viz.—

'This Council recommends to the Government to take early steps to establish a broadcasting service for this Presidency.'

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, I rise to support the resolution^a moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty. The attention of the Government has been drawn to the need for a broadcasting station more than once. If I remember right, more than two years ago, during the discussion of the Budget, it was pointed out that Government should bestow their attention on the starting of a broadcast service. Madras, in spite of the fact that there is very good scope for broadcast, has not been given the facilities for the starting of a broadcasting station. The Corporation of Madras with its slender resources has however tried its utmost to run a broadcasting station. The difficulties it is confronted with are that the station is not a powerful one and sufficient funds are not available. If Government would really take up this question seriously, I am quite confident it would be possible to establish a more powerful station and the necessary finances would also be available. The Madras Corporation last year passed a resolution stating that they would like to have a licence for running a more powerful station and also asked the Government for a grant. It is common knowledge that the Corporation in spite of handicaps has been running a station which is fairly popular. We see every evening people collecting in large numbers at the Marina to hear the music that is broadcast. The Corporation also broadcasts news. Of course it is not possible for the Corporation with its limited finances to give good music. Now with the starting of the Empire Broadcasting Service it is possible for stations not only to broadcast themselves but to receive and relay. During recent years, great improvements have been made with regard to the apparatus of receiving sets, so that even in the case of receiving sets with

^a Vide Proceedings of the Council, dated 24th January 1933.

[Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar] [2nd August 1933]

batteries, it is possible to have good reception. Now we are having electricity in all our towns and after the introduction of hydro-electric schemes, many of the municipalities in our Presidency will be able to have electricity supplied to their citizens. This will facilitate the reception of news that is broadcast.

“ Calcutta has been running a good broadcasting station. The Government of India took over the broadcasting on the 1st April 1930. It was in the beginning no doubt not a paying proposition. For in the first few years the income from the licence-holders was not enough, and I understand that in the first year there was a loss of about 2 lakhs of rupees. In the second year, the loss was not much, it was about a lakh and odd; but in the last speech that the Director of the broadcasting station at Calcutta gave on 1st April 1933, he said that broadcasting had a great future, and as regards Calcutta, instead of the finances being on the deficit side, they were hopeful of getting some surplus. The Director of the Calcutta station says that the accounts ending with March 1933 will show that the broadcast for the first time since its inception in India has worked without loss. He also points out that in spite of the fact that Government has been receiving more money towards their broadcasting fund, the money is got more as customs duty than as licence-fee. That really shows that the licensing system is not working properly. If Government really bestowed its attention on having greater check on the licence system, it would be possible for them to get more income, because if there is greater revenue from customs duty it naturally implies that more sets are being brought into the country; and it means there must be more licences, but as a matter of fact the licence income seems to be stationary; therefore there is need for legislation on the subject. I think it is necessary that we should ask the Government of India to legislate that the possession of unlicensed receiving sets would be illegal. Then it will be possible to get more licence fees.

“ I was referring to the financial aspect of it. We have found that it has been possible for the Government of India to run a broadcast station in Calcutta without loss. I am quite sure it will be possible for Madras to run a similar station without loss; perhaps they may be able to make some profit on it. Now, we are getting reception from powerful stations outside Madras. The reception from Colombo is good, but that from Calcutta is not so good and clear. Though Madras station is weak it is found that sometimes it is heard even by stations as distant as Allahabad. Though Madras cannot guarantee service for such long distances, yet with a more powerful set I am quite sure we shall be able to give greater and better service in our Presidency. I therefore feel strongly that it is up to the Madras Government to take up the matter in earnest. The need for a good broadcasting station cannot be overestimated. In a country like India where we want to remove illiteracy, broadcast will certainly play a very great part. It may be that the villagers are not able to read and write, but I am quite sure when a broadcast talk is given the villager who hears it in his

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distant village will be able to understand what is given out. I envisage the time when the Madras Government with its broadcasting station will be able to send out not only music, but also everyday news which will be received by almost every village; if it is possible for the Government to supply receiving sets to all the post offices, I am sure that the postmaster, himself alone or with the help of the village schoolmaster, will be able to work a receiving set at stated hours every day. The villagers would flock to the post office and hear talks broadcast from a central place like Madras. We are now on the eve of reforms and we are anxious that there should be more people who should be enfranchised. If we want to educate the people about their political rights and on the need to exercise these rights at the polling booth, it is absolutely necessary that we should tell them how to do so and also give them information of the events that take place in the country. Again, the Radio will be very useful to the agriculturist; he will know from time to time the prices of foodstuffs and the condition of the market. Then it will not be possible for the middlemen to make profits at the cost of the agriculturists. We are anxious that the agriculturist should not suffer by the prices going low. The broadcast will certainly help in the spread of knowledge which will be useful to the agriculturist to get better prices.

“Again the agriculturist will know when he can expect the monsoon, and if there are heavy floods he will be warned that he should be careful about the river banks and see that they are not breached. He will also know when to begin his cultivation. These are of course matters of detail. We are anxious that our people should get more education on scientific lines. If we are going to educate the whole population by teaching them how to read and write it will take a very long time, but with a broadcast service the process may be very much simplified. Even Government should feel that it is a useful weapon in their own hands for the purpose of sending out correct news where wrong news is spread in the country. I am therefore confident that broadcast will certainly play a very great part in the progress of the country. I have very great pleasure in supporting the resolution and I am quite sure Government will take up the question seriously and evolve a scheme at a very early date.”

* Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—“Mr. President, Sir, the arguments in 12
favour of broadcasting have been so clearly stated by the hon. Mover noon.
of the resolution, Mr. Shetty, and my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar, that I need not go in any detail into the matter. But, there are certain aspects of the question which I should like to touch upon. In the first place, the invention of wireless has placed in the hands of the public immense possibilities for their advancements and in the hands of the Government an instrument of very great power. Ours would be considered a backward Province if we do not avail ourselves of the vast usefulness of this invention. I see no good reason why broadcasting which has been introduced in some other Provinces should not be introduced in Madras. The question of taking advantage of this

[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

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invention and establishing a broadcasting station at Ceylon was taken up there some 4 or 5 years ago. It was my good fortune to be the Chairman of the Committee which was appointed by Government to go into the question whether broadcasting should be introduced and if so whether it should be taken up by the Government or whether it should be subsidized. The Committee reported that it would be desirable that Government themselves should take up this broadcasting unlike the arrangement in Bombay. The recommendations of the Committee were accepted by the Government and for the last four or five years broadcasting has been going on in Ceylon. In this connexion I may quote the following from a pamphlet bearing on the subject:—

'The experience of Ceylon is also instructive. The service was initiated in 1925 and was conducted under the auspices of the Government. The funds voted for its development were, however, extremely limited and the organization of the programmes had to be arranged almost entirely on a voluntary basis.'

'Even now the organization of programmes is carried on on a voluntary basis. That is to say, leading artistes are asked to contribute and speakers are asked to broadcast speeches. No payments are made. The artistes are given merely some refreshments. Therefore only a very small amount is needed. This is the case in Ceylon where the artistes fall into line with the public feeling and give free performances. Whether it will be possible in Madras or not I do not know. But it is certainly worth while to make the experiment. I do not know much about the technical aspects of the question and so I would not tread on that dangerous ground. But I think broadcasting in the Madras Presidency would be easier than in Bombay and Ceylon on account of the fact that there would probably be an absence of atmospherics between the Western Ghats and the East Coast. I therefore think that there is a great future for broadcasting in this Presidency. Whether for Government, or police or educational purposes, broadcasting would be extremely useful. As a matter of fact, I think Lord Lothian in one of his speeches said that now that we are going to extend the franchise, broadcasting would be essential. How will you educate the masses without broadcasting?

'One advantage of broadcasting that has not been so far mentioned is that it will knit together the town and the village. It has been an old cry that the towns are growing at the expense of the villages. If we broadcast from the towns we can bring to the villages the amenities of towns. From that point of view therefore it is desirable that broadcasting should be introduced as early as possible.

'Of course the question of finance is an embarrassing one and the hon. the Finance Member would say that though broadcasting is a useful thing the finances at the present time do not permit its introduction. If that is the case, I would point out that it is not necessary to spend any large amount for the purpose. In Ceylon broadcasting almost pays its way and there is no reason why in Madras, if the experiment is started on a small scale, any great expenditure should be incurred. The pamphlet I quoted from already says that piecemeal introduction of

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[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

broadcasting service covering comparatively small areas would not be expensive. It will be possible to start one station somewhere in Madras. No doubt, if we start it in Madras there will be complaints from districts; but it will be possible to ward off those attacks by pointing out that more stations would be established if the experiment succeeded. We have in Madras a studio at the Madras Corporation which cannot be heard in the outlying districts. But if we have a big transmitting station at Madras it would serve a larger area. Now, Ceylon can be heard very distinctly at Madras, more distinctly than Bombay. It will be possible also by means of the transmitting station to relay. It would not cost very much. If this is done it will be possible indeed to undertake the experiment on a larger scale here than in Ceylon. I am afraid that if our Province is backward in this matter, we shall soon find that we lag behind Mysore where they will soon start broadcasting. If we have a broadcasting station here, we should have an advisory board consisting of people representing the Police, Education, Press and Trades and Commerce. There should also be a Government Engineer on the Board. The members will not be paid anything. It will be an honorary body. A Government official, say a Secretary to Government or a Deputy Secretary would be the President of the Board and the other members, as I said, will represent the various interests. It will be the duty of this Board to decide what should be broadcast and what not. This difficult question is causing considerable difficulty even in England where one party feels that another party is given too much privilege and one religious denomination feels that another religious denomination is given preference. All these difficulties will be solved if the Board is established as suggested by me. But it is desirable to have the experience of some one connected with broadcasting in other Provinces. I would earnestly suggest that an expert be brought down from Ceylon where the experiment has been tried with conspicuous success. Even if it is necessary to get the services of an expert from England, this may be done. The cost would be small compared with the advantages that will result. We should not adopt the policy of losing a ship for a half penny worth of tar. This experiment which is of advantage to the country should be tried."

* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Sir, though I do not support wholeheartedly the broadcasting, I have my own doubts as to the success of these things. Sir, during the discussion of the Budget I pointed out the inadvisability of the Government giving loans to local bodies not knowing whether the experiments would be a success or not. The Ootacamund Municipality took a loan of Rs. 5,000 from the Government to erect a broadcasting station there although many councillors objected to it. Broadcasting would be a success if the atmospheric conditions are good. In the case of a district like the Nilgiris, unless one could find out beforehand whether the atmospherics would be favourable or not, there is no use trying an experiment. It was not for many months that Ootacamund enjoyed the set that it bought for Rs. 4,000 together with the building. Of course, municipalities like Coimbatore

[Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai] [2nd August 1933]

are probably suitable places for broadcasting. We do not know whether other places would be quite suitable for the purpose. I would therefore appeal to the Government to take into consideration the climatic conditions prevailing in various districts and see whether broadcasting will be successful, before deciding to have a broadcasting scheme. Unless this is done, I am afraid, the money the Government might come forward with, will not be well spent. Moreover, at a time like this when we are expecting elections and other things, I am sure broadcasting might go a long way to help the candidates that are seeking election to the various bodies in the political field. At the same time one must know whether the money spent for this purpose will be equally and well spent so that all the districts may enjoy the benefits of broadcasting. Of course our (Nilgiris) district having proved a failure in broadcasting is not at all the reason for my opposing this motion. I only want the Government to investigate the whole question of finance in relation to the results in this Presidency of broadcasting."

12-15
p.m.

* Mrs. K. ALAMELUMANGATHAYARAMMA then addressed the House in Tamil and the following is the English rendering of the same:—

"Mr. President, Sir, with great pleasure I rise to support the proposition for the development of broadcasting in our province. Many of the hon. Members who preceded me have spoken on the benefits of broadcasting and it is needless for me to dilate further on the same. The Madras Corporation took the initiative in installing broadcasting stations in various parts of the city especially in the Marina and the public parks, where many thousands of citizens are spending an enjoyable evening daily. The radio at the Marina is the main attraction to many thousands of men and women, who flock to the beach daily in the evenings and spend some hours in the refreshing sea breeze. There they get not only music but also good air which is quite essential to the healthy life of every citizen. The benefits of broadcasting are shared equally by all, whether they be rich or poor, educated or illiterate, men or women. It is needless for me to say that by the broadcasting and the radio many have become lovers of music and also got an aptitude for learning that finest art. The radio has become an indispensable necessity to every modern city and village. The Corporation of Madras is broadcasting at present only programmes of music daily and it would be highly beneficial if the Corporation could arrange to broadcast matters of educative and commercial value. Though the Corporation of Madras has launched a scheme of elementary education in the city and is also pursuing a policy of opening at least an elementary school in every ward, yet we find that many hundreds of children and adults are still uneducated. The broadcasting can be utilized as the best medium of educating boys, youths and adults, by arranging educated men and women to deliver instructive lectures on subjects of educative value. There is also a Tamil proverb that hearing is much better than learning. Even in matters of social reform, radio is an invaluable asset. In matters such as rural development, broadcasting

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can be of utmost help to the authorities. By installing a transmitting radio set in a central district, matters of social, commercial and educational value can be broadcast even in vernacular languages to villages within a radius of twenty to twenty-five miles. If municipalities and local boards are not in a position to instal radio sets in all important places within their jurisdiction, it is the duty of the Government to come to their rescue by giving liberal grants. I support this resolution whole-heartedly."

Mr. R. MADANAGOPAL NAYUDU:—"I rise to support the motion before the House. In doing so, I should like to make it clear that the Madras Corporation did its level best in having the broadcasting service extended up to a distance of 100 miles, but they met with certain difficulties in the hands of the Madras Government from the point of view of finance. The Corporation is really anxious that the advantages of broadcasting service should be available to every village in the Presidency. As has been pointed out by previous speakers various advantages are derived from this service. We can now expect nothing at the hands of the Government of India for our broadcasting service in this City. But the examples of Bombay and Bengal ought to be sufficient for our local Government to press the Imperial Government on this matter and see that the Corporation of Madras is encouraged in a limited time to have a broadcasting service, in the first instance at least up to a distance of 100 miles. We should all certainly be glad if the benefit is derived by the whole Presidency, and if the distance is not limited only up to 100 miles. I therefore have great pleasure in supporting this motion."

* Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I feel that I should oppose this motion. I must say that it is too early for us to have a broadcasting service all over the Presidency. The Government have been carrying on the administration of our province with difficulty. They have not only cut the expenditure all round, but also they have asked many of our men in service under Government to go out of their employment. They have also retrenched expenditure on education, including elementary education. What is the state of the people living in the mufassal? Are they in a position to appreciate broadcasting if we introduce it in the mufassal? Most of the people living in the mufassal are groaning under poverty and they have not got sufficient educational facilities. Most of the schools in the mufassal have been closed for want of financial help either from the local bodies or the Government. I received a pamphlet from the so-called well-wishers of India in England advocating the introduction of broadcasting service all over India and stating that if every village were to spend Rs. 120 for installation of this set and incur a further expenditure of Rs. 60 every year towards maintenance, each village can have this service. If broadcasting service is introduced under the conditions obtaining now, it will be very difficult for the villagers. Already we have moved the Government saying that the people were unable to bear the existing taxation and Government

[Mr. M. Devadasan] [2nd August 1933]

have been pleased to reduce the taxation to a certain extent in certain districts. We are not able to meet very many necessary items of expenditure. We are not able to spend enough for the promotion of elementary education, which is the only remedy for removing illiteracy among the masses. What is absolutely necessary for us is the introduction of free compulsory elementary education. This broadcasting service is intended only for some educated people who do not have any better business in life. The problem of unemployment is very much keener than before. If broadcasting service is introduced, it will dislocate the business of the villagers. Ordinary people cannot be attending to this broadcasting. They cannot afford to waste their precious time. We all know that even ordinary people in villages do not attend to their business, and if this service is introduced, it will create more idleness among them. They will turn away from their usual avocations and indulge in enjoying this service. My hon. Friend, Mr. Sreshta, said that Ceylon is more suitable for this broadcasting service. Ceylon is not the proper test for introducing the service in our Province also. Mr. Sreshta has been in Ceylon for a long time and therefore he quotes Ceylon as an example. But I should point out that in Ceylon the standard of life of the people is different from what is obtaining here. With these words I oppose the proposition."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"I had no idea to speak on this motion because I thought there would be no opposition to a resolution of this type. I am sorry to say that I find some opposition to this resolution. This broadcasting service will be more beneficial to the uneducated people in the mufassal than it is to the people living in towns. It is recognized throughout the world that the most effective way of educating the illiterate people in the mufassal is by having broadcasting service. If we want to reach the masses it is really very difficult for educated people who want to educate them and give instruction to them on various subjects. I believe my friend who opposed this motion was more keen on spending for elementary education. But what is the state of elementary education in our country? We are spending more than one crore of rupees for elementary education but with what result? The amount of illiteracy is not much reduced. The pupils reach only up to the 1st, 2nd or the 3rd standard and most of them are not able to reach the 4th standard and above. And most of the money spent is a huge waste. If we introduce the system of broadcasting in mufassal, we will have the means of educating the people there. Education does not mean the 3 R's only. Education really means the imparting of knowledge in any manner. Broadcasting is the best means of doing that. It is absolutely wrong to think that broadcasting is intended only as luxury. If really a system of broadcasting is introduced, it will be useful for imparting knowledge to the people on various subjects. I do not know why our friends are thinking of broadcasting being introduced only in towns. It ought really be the other way. We do not want to confine the broadcasting service to towns only, but we want to extend it to mufassal also so that people in the mufassal may

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[Mr. K. Koti Reddi]

be given something to occupy themselves during their leisure hours. There are certain rural communities who are idle during certain periods of a year. If this broadcasting service is introduced and by this means they are made to listen to lectures or music produced through this service, it will be a great help to such people. Instead of scheming on various things, the villagers can much better spend their time in listening to music or lectures. My hon. Friend who preceded me is very much mistaken in thinking that this service is not intended for illiterate people. It is exactly for the reason that the leisure hours of such people may be better spent by their listening to lectures and music that this broadcasting service is sought to be introduced. With regard to the Agency which should undertake this service, whether it should be a municipality or the Government, or some other body, I do not think that is a point for discussion now. So if this broadcasting service is introduced in mufassal, the leisured time of the people, instead of their scheming on so many things, as I said already, will be better spent and thus afford instruction and amusement."

* The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—" Mr. President, Sir, I should like, at the outset, to say that the Government fully realize the importance of broadcasting and its great value in disseminating knowledge and providing amusement to the people all over the Presidency, especially those who have little or no opportunity of enjoying these benefits. I need not digress on the importance of the subject, because so many speakers have dwelt upon it, that I think it requires no demonstration from me. I will only say that the Government are fully in sympathy with that point of view and I would like to say further that both the Government and the House are under a debt of gratitude to my hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, for having raised this important subject. Having said that, I do not think it is necessary for me to discuss the arguments advanced by my hon. Friend, Mr. Devadasan, against the idea of having a broadcasting system at all. I think my hon. Friend, Mr. Koti Reddi, has shown sufficiently clearly that in many respects the opposition of Mr. Devadasan was based on misunderstanding. Because so far from broadcasting proving useless to the illiterate, it is exactly because he is illiterate it would be useful to him. So far from its being a luxury and cause of idleness, it would cause him to employ his hours of leisure in a more profitable manner than he does at present, because he can, in the evenings when he returns from the fields after grazing his cattle and so on, turn to broadcasting. That is the time when he would be spending his time idly, possibly in the toddy shop. I think therefore the opposition from the point of view of my hon. Friend, Mr. Devadasan, on the ground that broadcasting will benefit primarily the literate and the educated classes is based on misapprehension.

12-30
p.m.

"At the same time, the whole question is quite new to us—to this House, to myself and to the Government. We have had considerable difficulty in deciding exactly how we should set about the examination of the whole project. We have received from the Chairman of the European

[Mr. H. G. Stokes]

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Association some time ago a general report on the subject containing very valuable suggestions. We hope when we come to closer grips with the question we shall be greatly assisted by the suggestions they have made. Of course, as I have said, the difficulties are considerable, but I do not think they are insuperable and I feel especially that we should examine the financial aspects of the matter most carefully so that we may avoid any waste of money.

“ One important question which will have to be considered is whether the agency for managing this broadcasting system should be Government or whether it should be left to individual or local bodies. Provisionally I am of opinion, although it is not the final opinion of the Government, that the general control ought to be in the hands of the Government, for various reasons. One reason is that the Government only will be able to provide the necessary funds. A further reason is that if you allow broadcasting systems to grow up haphazard, there is certainly a danger—this is one of the points that the memorandum of the European Association lays stress on—that we may get a number of small stations near to one another which will interfere with one another and possibly the villager at large would not benefit to the extent to which he would benefit by a more unified and centralized system.

“ Then as regards reception, I take it that we must concentrate on collective rather than on individual private reception. One reason for that is the number of people who could afford private receiving sets is comparatively limited. Of course there would be nothing to prevent anybody who could afford it to go in for a receiving set. But what we contemplate is that local bodies and village panchayats who realize the benefits of broadcasting would see their way to instal such sets. Those are rather details which will have to be considered at a later stage. Of course as one speaker pointed out,—I think it was Mr. Muniswami Pillai—the finances of the scheme will have to be carefully gone into. Personally I do not think it would be worth the Government's while to undertake a very small or restricted scheme.

“ It seems to me that if Government are going to take it up, it will have to be a fairly wide scheme which would serve at any rate the major part of the Presidency and that could only be undertaken in stages. So far as we can gauge at present, the cost of the scheme is ultimately going to be a big commitment. Therefore I quite agree with the speaker who emphasised that the financial aspect of the matter should receive close attention.

“ The existing arrangement, so far as I understand, regarding the revenues of broadcasting, seems to be rather one-sided. The principal revenue from broadcasting is in the shape of import duties and licence fees, both of which are fixed by the Central Government. That point will have to be considered in consultation with the Central Government. If the Province is going to launch an expensive scheme of broadcasting, it will be reasonable that we should get a reasonable share in the receipts.

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[Mr. H. G. Stokes]

"I mention all these points to indicate that the examination of this subject must take some time and for this reason we have not been able to arrive at a stage at which we can put forward a specific scheme for the consideration of the Council. Nor can I undertake, as the resolution requests me to do, to take early steps to *establish* a broadcasting system. If my hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, had worded his resolution that the Government should take early steps to investigate the possibility of establishing such a system, I should gladly have accepted his resolution. I do not know whether he would be willing to modify the wording of his resolution in that manner. If he would be willing to do so and if you, Sir, and if the House permit that resolution to be so modified, I should be glad to accept it in the modified form.

"I think, Sir, I have said enough to make the House understand that we do appreciate the importance of the subject and that we will proceed to examine it in a sympathetic spirit in the hope that it will be possible to evolve practical proposals without undue delay. I may say that since the hon. Member moved his resolution in January last, we have not been idle. In the first instance, owing to the helplessness we feel in regard to the technical side of the matter, we have written to our Chief Electrical Engineer now on leave in England (Major Howard) to inquire on what terms we could obtain the services of an expert in this line for six months or possibly for a year to come out here and advise us as to the best method of going about the scheme, particularly, for instance, on such matters as the best type of apparatus, the most suitable wave-lengths and all that sort of thing. Because I am given to understand that one of the great difficulties of introducing a system over a wide area such as the Madras Presidency lies in the extraordinary differences of climate, for instance, in the east coast as compared with the west coast, in the plains as compared with the hills and so on. Our idea therefore, is to obtain the services of an expert who will make a sort of survey of the Presidency to begin with, possibly carrying with him a portable transmitter and other machinery and advise us as to the lines on which we will have to proceed and actually work out a scheme for us. That will give us some idea of what it is going to cost us and enable us to see whether the thing is really within our financial capabilities at all. We have not yet received any reply from Major Howard. We understand that he has got into touch with the Broadcasting Corporation there and we hope shortly to receive his reply on the subject. I have nothing more to add in reply to the resolution which has been moved. As I said, if my hon. Friend would agree to modify the resolution in the manner I suggested, I would be prepared to accept it."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. President, I beg to move the following amendment to the resolution, namely:—

'for the word, "*establish*" in line 2, substitute the words, "*investigate the possibility of establishing*".'

"I hope, Sir, that the hon. the Finance Member will find it possible to accept the resolution and not only accept it but take early steps, as

[Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan] [2nd August 1933]

he has himself kindly promised, to investigate the possibility of establishing a broadcasting system as early as possible. There is no doubt that the financial difficulties are there and as the Government have stated they have not so far investigated the question. But we have before us the examples of other countries where a broadcasting service is working successfully. It ought not to be difficult for the Government if they make up their minds to establish a broadcasting system in this province as early as possible and bring it into working order."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"I accept the amendment, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is, for the word 'establish' in line 2, substitute the words 'investigate the possibility of establishing'."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"I accept the amendment, Sir."

The amendment was put and carried.

The resolution, as amended, was put and carried.

CREATION OF AN ANDHRA PROVINCE.

12-45
p.m.

* Mr. A. HARISCHANDRUDU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the resolution standing against my name—

'this Council recommends to the Government that they may be pleased to urge upon the Government of India and the Secretary of State the great and urgent necessity of creating the Andhra Province simultaneously with the inauguration of the new Constitution in India.'

"In commending my resolution to the House, it will be unnecessary for me to speak at great length as the hon. Members are intimately acquainted with the discussions that have been carried on from time to time both inside as well as outside the House on the subject of the need for the creation of an Andhra Province. Ever since the Andhra Conference was organized in 1913 about 20 years ago, this question came to occupy the primary attention of the public of the Andhra Desa and in almost every annual session a resolution in favour of the establishment of a Province was passed. The Conference has always been representative in character and some of the foremost leaders of the province, men like the late Raja of Panagal and Sir B. N. Sarma and those like Messrs. C. R. Reddi and Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu presided over the annual sessions and the opinion of such public men like the hon. the Raja of Bobbili deserves weighty considerations at the hands of all. The Standing Committee of the Conference has been carrying on systematic propaganda on the subject and is educating the public and it has collected a large amount of data to demonstrate the soundness of the proposal. On successive occasions resolutions on the subject were moved in this very House, and found support from a large majority of the Members. Both in the Imperial Legislative Assembly and the Council of State, the proposal received the